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Still waiting for help years after Zadroga

► 9/11 responders hailed a bill to help them in 2010, but in two years since, 200 responders died and others say no funds arrived ► Justice officials say they have not yet received one completed application {page 04}

local

Officials ask New Yorkers to turn in guns

► Politicians support more gun buyback programs in city after Newtown {page 08}

home

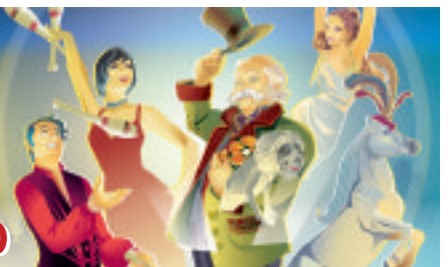
Martha Stewart will e-vite you to her party

► The woman who sets the trends on entertaining gives surprising advice {page 32}

Make resolutions you'll keep {page 27}

'Best of.' Retail and fashion

► On Day 3 of our Best of 2012 series, we highlight the city's top spots to pick up everything from stationery to skis. {pages 16-17}

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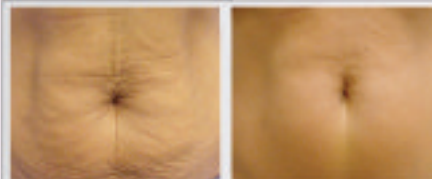
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Hoping for 9/11 funds in 2013 after years waiting

Ken George is still waiting.

Two years ago, George, 49, was one of the 9/11 responders ecstatic when Congress passed the Zadroga Act, which created a fund to help him with ailments lingering from work at Ground Zero — lung problems, piles of pills on his counters.

But nearly two years to the day — Saturday — of the passage, the health problems remain, but no help has added to his wallet.

"We've not seen one dime," his wife Cynthia, 46, told Metro.

John Feal, who heads the FealGood Foundation to assist responders, said about 1,300 responders have died since 2001 — 200 since 2010 alone, he said.



► Dozens attended a Zadroga event Saturday in Queens.

MILES DIXON/METRO

\$2.7B Allotted by the Zadroga Act passed in 2010 for the Victim Compensation Fund

Those responders could have benefited from the funds, he said.

In a letter to responders, a frustrated Feal said

officials are "out of excuses," adding, "Enough is enough already."

Sen. Charles Schumer called the delay "outrageous," demanding that officials move "heaven and earth" to distribute funds.

Sheila Birnbaum, who heads the fund, reportedly hopes to begin payouts in January. Many forms were

not filled out correctly — a Department of Justice spokesperson told Metro yesterday that the DOJ has not received one completed application since it began accepting them in October 2011.

George suffers from respiratory issues and constantly fears the cancers invading many of his colleagues' bodies, which were added to the covered illnesses in September.

Alex Sanchez, who has lung problems after cleaning at Ground Zero, helps other cleanup workers get Zadroga information.

"They're seeking answers, because everyone has waited for such a long time," he said.



ALISON BOWEN
alison.bowen@metro.us

'I'm done. I'm done waiting'

The Georges filled out forms nearly immediately, two years back. Just last week, Cynthia spoke with their attorney, only to hear again that they were still waiting.

"I'm tired of it," she said. "I'm done. I'm done waiting."

Their family is still in the same situation as two years ago, she said — trying to get by and balance pills, hospital copays and ever-steeper gas prices just to get to the doctor.

"Everyone's still strapped, and it's still the holiday season, and you're still trying to make ends meet, and you're getting nowhere," she said.



METRO FILE PHOTO

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Platoon leader faces discharge after NYC Army private's death

The leader of a platoon whose members were accused of hazing an Asian-American soldier who killed himself in Afghanistan has been punished and will be discharged from the U.S. Army, officials said on Monday.

First Lt. Daniel Schwartz was the highest ranking of eight soldiers charged in connection with 19-year-old Private Danny Chen's suicide and the last to have his case resolved.

Chen, the only Chinese-American in his unit, fatally shot himself in a guard tower in southern Afghanistan in October 2011 after enduring weeks of disparaging taunts and physical mistreatment from his superiors, military prosecutors said.

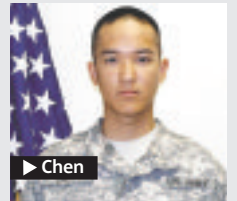
Members of the platoon were accused of calling him racially derogatory names such as "gook,"

Local leaders say punishment too lenient

Local officials criticized what they called too lax of a punishment.

"At a very minimum, all eight should be discharged," said Elizabeth OuYang, president of the New York chapter of the Organization of Chinese Americans, which has been advocating on behalf of Chen and his family.

"The most jail time received was six months," OuYang continued. "This is a situation where you have someone who died. These slap-on-the-wrist punishments do not equate at all



► Chen

with the value of Danny Chen's life."

"Removing Danny's platoon leader from the Army should have been a foregone conclusion," Rep. Nydia Velazquez said.

"Over the course of these trials, too many of the soldiers involved in Danny's abuse received relatively minor sentences."

METRO/REUTERS

"slants" and "egg roll." Prosecutors said they threw rocks at him, dragged him across gravel and tied sandbags to his arms at the remote combat

outpost where Chen began his first deployment in August 2011.

Chen was the only child of Chinese immigrants in New York City. **REUTERS**

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In the news

Council promises fleet of hurricane hearings

The City Council will begin weeks' worth of hearings in January to determine how the city can better handle the next hurricane.

Council Speaker Christine Quinn helped unroll a fleet of bills today, saying, "Climate change is an irrefutable reality. New York City must be better prepared when the next storm strikes."

The Council will hold a seven-week-long series of hearings addressing storm planning, inspired by Hurricane Sandy and gauging everything from where hospitals should keep broilers to whether power lines should be planted underground.

The first hearing will

What would the bills do?

- Study whether to put power lines underground, to prevent power outages like the ones after Sandy
- Update FEMA maps, as Council members noted that areas outside of the FEMA maps indicating flood zones actually flooded

be Jan. 14, and it will focus on assessing how well the Office of Emergency Management's coastal storm disaster plan worked, as well as emergency response efforts.

Other hearings will tackle the city's public-housing response, how cell-phone companies operated and how quickly public transportation was back on track after the storm. ● METRO/AB

Leaders ask New Yorkers to turn in their weapons

As the nation recovers from the nightmarish tragedy that claimed 26 lives Friday at Sandy Hook Elementary School, local officials are joining the conversation about gun control, urging people to get weapons off the streets of the city.

Officials including Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez and Public Advocate Bill de Blasio are supporting buyback programs designed to let people hand over their guns to police, no questions asked, and receive \$100 in return.

Rodriguez also announced the relaunch of "Toys for Guns," which allows people to turn in weapons in exchange for a toy or toy voucher.



► Guns recovered in Brooklyn

More security for schools?

Meanwhile, Councilman Peter Vallone is pushing legislation he first introduced in 2010, which would provide NYPD security for non-public

schools, urging fellow lawmakers to give "equal protection" to all city students.

"The city cannot ignore the safety of thousands of kids based solely on the type of school they attend," Vallone said.

The NYPD's gun buyback program has netted 8,000 weapons since it was implemented, police said.

Most recently, cops recovered 134 weapons at a Brooklyn buyback hosted Saturday — just one day after the tragic mass shooting in Connecticut.

"With over 30,000 deaths from gun violence in America in the past year alone, there is a real need to limit the amount of illegal guns on our streets," Rodriguez said. "I am calling on any and all New Yorkers to surrender their firearms so that we can help prevent another national tragedy."



CASSANDRA GARRISON

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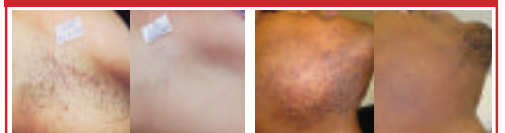
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Newtown students return to class after school massacre

GETTY IMAGES



► Children return to school yesterday in Newtown, Conn., four days after 20 children and six adults were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Students returned to school in the shattered Connecticut town of Newtown on Tuesday for the first time since a gunman's rampage killed 26 people in an elementary school, altering the gun-control debate in Washington and forcing a retailer to pull guns from shelves.

Sandy Hook Elementary, where 20-year-old Adam Lanza gunned down a score of 6- and 7-year-olds and six adults on Friday, will remain closed. It is an active crime scene, with police coming and going past a line of 26 Christmas trees, one for each victim, decorated with ornaments, stuffed animals and balloons in the school colors of green and white.

NRA silence

► The nation's powerful gun industry lobby, the National Rifle Association, has remained silent on the Newtown shooting.

When Sandy Hook students go back to school, it will be at the unused Chalk Hill School in nearby Monroe, where a sign across the street read, "Welcome Sandy Hook Elementary!"

Police have warned it could take months for them to finish their investigation, which was set back because Lanza smashed his computer's hard drive, preventing police from retrieving any data, The New York Times

reported, citing a senior law enforcement official.

The rest of Newtown's schools reopened with grief counselors and police present, though it was unclear how many of the town's 4,700 students would attend.

"It's going to be awful, doing the things we used to do," said Miguel, 16, who stopped by a doughnut shop on his way to Newtown High School. "There's going to be a lot of tears."

The massacre of young kids shocked Americans who had grown accustomed to mass shootings, prompting some U.S. lawmakers to call for tighter gun restrictions and pressuring one private equity firm to sell its investment in a gunmaker. **REUTERS**

Backlash prompts Bushmaster rifle maker sale

The company whose AR-15 type Bushmaster rifle was used in the school massacre in Connecticut will be immediately put up for sale, its private equity owner Cerberus Capital Management LP said on Tuesday in response to investor concerns.

The secretive private equity



► AR-15 similar to the one used in the Newtown shooting

firm risked the ire of investors, which include some of the largest U.S. public pension funds, after its investment in Freedom Group Inc., owner of Bushmaster Firearms International that makes

the rifle, came under public scrutiny.

The pressure on Cerberus to sell the firearms maker comes as it seeks up to \$3.5 billion from investors for its latest buyout fund. **REUTERS**

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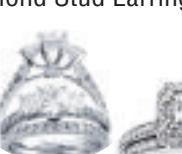
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In the news



NYSE executive says exchanges inching closer to 'kill switch'

WASHINGTON. U.S. regulators and exchanges are getting closer to a framework for a "kill switch" that could be used to shut down trading before software glitches get out of control and wreak havoc on markets, a top exchange official said yesterday.

"We have all engaged in a much more detailed

assessment of how a kill switch could work," Joe Mecane, an executive vice president at the New York Stock Exchange, said in testimony before a U.S. Senate Banking panel yesterday. **REUTERS**

Samsung drops attempt to ban Apple sales in Europe

STOCKHOLM. Korea's Samsung Electronics said yesterday it would drop law suits aimed at banning the sale of Apple Inc. products in Europe just a day after scoring a victory in a battle in the United States with the maker of iPhones.

Samsung and Apple have been locked in patent disputes in at least 10 countries over the last 18 months.

REUTERS

Boehner holds troops in line on 'fiscal cliff' deal talks

Republicans tried to squeeze more concessions from the White House on taxes yesterday in political maneuvering for a deal that would prevent the U.S. economy from going over the "fiscal cliff" in the new year.

With an agreement between President Barack Obama and House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner looking more likely, the Republicans pressed for Democrats to agree to raising taxes only on people making incomes exceeding \$1 million a year.

The Republican proposal, known as Plan B, was part of a political dance by both parties to try to spin the narrative in their favor even as they edged closer to agreement.



► The Obama-Boehner talks have largely overcome stark ideological differences.

and move more than halfway toward the Republicans," White House spokesman Jay Carney told reporters, adding that Obama is making a "good faith" effort to reach a compromise.

While a bipartisan bargain could still fall apart, hopes of an accord rose on Monday night after Obama made a concession to Republicans by offering to limit tax increases to incomes exceeding \$400,000 per household. That is a higher threshold than the \$250,000 he had sought earlier.

Boehner said he planned to move a "Plan B" bill to the House floor, possibly this week, in a move that could spur forward his talks with Obama. **REUTERS**

\$500K

Analysts said Obama and Boehner may strike a tax compromise at \$500,000 or close to that.

The White House rejected the offer but remained confident of an agreement after both sides made compromises in recent days.

"The president has demonstrated an obvious willingness to compromise

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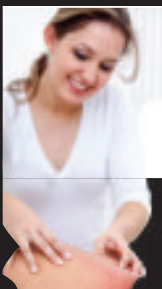
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Swedish teens riot over 'slut' Instagram account

An anonymous Swedish Instagram account that posted images of teenage girls called "sluts" and "whores" sparked riots outside a high school.

Hundreds of teens gathered outside Plusgymnasiet high school in Sweden's second largest city, Gothenburg, where the alleged owner of the account is believed to study. The group reportedly planned via Facebook to meet and beat up the account's owner.

Yesterday morning, police, some of whom were mounted on horseback, went to the school as students threw missiles and jumped on cars, witnesses said. YouTube footage shows a large group scuf-



► The rioting students forced confused holiday shoppers to take cover inside stores as police brought the unruly teens under control.

fling outside what appears to be the school. Soon after, some 27 people were arrested outside a nearby shopping mall.

A 17-year old girl has been taken into custody. The girl is suspected of

having started the account on Instagram.

When she realized what was happening, she contacted the police and asked them to collect her from the school and protect her.

At the high school, one girl was hit in the face, and another was attacked and kicked by four girls, a witness said.

"The teachers cried out and there was a panic on the whole school. It was so sick," says 17-year old student Janina Niemi, who was in the cafeteria when the fracas began. "I saw one girl being kicked in the head. She was on the ground. There was four against one," she said.

Janina's mother, Kirsi Niemi, spoke of her anger at about what had happened.

"It is insane. It is completely unacceptable to say things like this about people," she says.

● ARON ANDERSSON, METRO WORLD NEWS IN SWEDEN



► The riots were set off after an Instagram user asked for tips on "sluts" in Gothenburg.

METRO WORLD NEWS

The account

The initial Instagram account — with over 200 posted images of teens reportedly as young as 13 and details

of alleged sexual activity — was shut down on Monday but migrated to Facebook, where content continued to be read at the school and elsewhere.

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This looks a bit fishy

KIM PRESTON REX FEATURES



► Passionate on the preservation of our oceans, Preston added that, "this is a photographically based rant against the irresponsible overuse of plastic."

This image of odd-looking sea creatures would have marine biologists baffled, but it in fact shows an everyday object shot to represent sea animals. The project, titled, 'Plastic Pacific' was created by Australian artist Kim Preston, 33, who wanted to draw attention to the devastating effect of plastic build-up in oceans around the globe. ● MWN

Quoted

"I hoped that the prettiness of the images would draw people in more than if I showed the far uglier reality."

KIM PRESTON, DIGITAL DESIGNER AND ILLUSTRATOR, 33, FROM MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Facts about ocean plastic

- 33.5 million kilograms of plastic are spread throughout the world's oceans.
- 92.5 percent of dead seabirds (Northern fulmars) in a study had ingested plastic equal to 5 percent of their body weight.
- Up to 21,000 metric tons of plastic are ingested by fish in the North Pacific Ocean region every year.

The process

Shot in her garden shed, Preston used a blue fabric as the backdrop and hung all the objects from a clothes rack while she photographed them. For the shower caps, she would quickly blow into them before snapping a shot with a wireless shutter release. She had planned to shoot the series inside a fish tank, but her lack of budget forced her to become more creative.

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'Best of' series

All week long, Metro will be highlighting our selections of the city's best — from dining spots to spa oases — of 2012. Check back tomorrow for our picks in health and beauty.

Best shop for tasteful and inexpensive cookware and dishes:

Fishs Eddy
889 Broadway, 212-420-9020, www.fishseddy.com
Crocery and cutlery can be attractive even if you're not paying a lot of money for them. For over 25 years, this Gramercy Park staple has been stocking thrifty New Yorkers with on-trend dining and kitchenware — and even some linens and tchotchkes — at an affordable price. You can fake it like you shopped at ABC Carpet and Home right up the street.

Best Park Slope spot to pick an adorable baby gift and a great

accessory for yourself:

Loom
115 Seventh Ave., Brooklyn 718-789-0061
This staple of the neighborhood is a gift shop perfectly designed for a hip young Brooklynite on her way to a baby shower: Offbeat but charming children's toys and accessories sit alongside designer purses and cool jewelry that'll snazz up any outfit.

Best new spot to pick up that baby gift (non-Park Slope variety):

Stork
726 Franklin Ave., Brooklyn 718-313-0031, www.stork-baby.com
If you would have told us five years ago that Crown Heights would have an upscale baby store that sells environmentally friendly toys and boutique clothing, we would have laughed you off. But Stork, which opened in 2011 on a rapidly changing stretch of Franklin Avenue, is a game-changer for the area.

The shop sells locally sourced clothes, books and toys for children as well as an assortment of non-toxic household products with an obvious appeal to young parents seeking safer, healthier ways to keep their homes clean.

Best place to pick up stylish patterned stockings:

Century 21
Multiple locations, www.c21stores.com
With two locations in Manhattan and stores in Brooklyn, Queens, Long Island and New Jersey, this legendary discount outfitter is already famous for its prices and selection. But in particular, we're appreciative of its high-quality hosiery offered at equally attractive prices.

Best place to stock up on affordable leggings that have built-in technology to keep you warm:

Uniqlo
Multiple locations, www.uniqlo.com



► Fishs Eddy offers a fun variety of dishware, like these Brooklyn-patterned ceramics.



uniqlo.com
Forget the hundreds of awesome and affordable goods it carries — the main reason to shop this Japanese chain is for its heat-generating line of base layers. Heattech — which comes in all sorts of forms, from leggings to a tubetop-like body warmer — is made from a high-tech fabric that uses the moisture evaporating from your body to generate heat. So go ahead and wear a skirt in 20-degree weather.

New stores that will make you feel like you're shopping in a hip district in Paris:

Sandro and Maje
<http://us.sandro-paris.com>
<http://us.maje.com>
If New Yorkers look a little more chic lately, it's thanks to French labels Sandro and Maje, which arrived stateside at the end of 2011. Both brands, owned by siblings in Paris, feature a feminine-yet-edgy aesthetic and opened boutiques on Bleecker and Prince streets (they can

also be found in Bloomingdales). They've become the go-to stores for hip shoppers in search of that effortlessly cool Parisian look.

Brooklyn plant shop not run by unaffected hipsters:

Dig
479 Atlantic Ave., Brooklyn 718-554-0207, www.gardendig.com
Not quite ready to retire but over-working in advertising, Chuck Dorr decided to pursue his passion for landscaping and plants and open Dig. The store is packed with interesting plants, a large selection of beautiful planters and all sorts of vintage doo-dads. But the best part is the friendly service. Chuck, his wife Maggie (who also joined the business) and the entire staff really are happy to make recommendations, report your latest addition, answer questions and even obsess with you about finding the right color planter for your begonia.



Brooklyn stationery haven that is the embodiment of a Pinterest board:

Papel

225 Court St., Brooklyn
718-422-0255, <http://papelnewyork.com>
 Displays featuring artfully arranged streamers and vintage typewriters lure you into this Brooklyn paperie. But once inside, you'll stay for hours looking through the carefully curated selection of charming modern finds, including letter-pressed greeting cards, stationery sets, Japanese masking tape, recipe boxes, wrapping paper and more. If you're the kind to geek out over bakers twine, chevron prints and tape dispensers in the form of sewing machines, this precious store has an item — or 20 — for you.

Best place to get a new outfit between work and happy hour:

De Janeiro
Multiple locations, www.dejny.com

In your inbox is a message from a guy who you've been chatting with on OKCupid: He wants to meet in an hour, and the only change of clothes you brought are your sweaty gym threads. Where to get a cute outfit, stat? De Janeiro, where the styles are on-target and the prices are right. It's no-frills, but whether you're looking for something trendy, like a peplum dress, or something a little more reserved — nude pumps, anyone? — you'll find it, and it won't cost you an arm and a leg.

Best place to turn your old T-shirts into a quilt:

The City Quilter
133 W. 25th St., 212-807-0390, www.cityquilter.com
 We know you don't want to toss your sentimental college tees, but they're taking up loads of space in your dresser. Take a class at City Quilter and you'll learn how to create a blanket you can cozy up in (even if it's just for nostalgia purposes). The shop of-



► They won't roll their eyes at your watering concerns at Dig.



► You don't need to go to France to dress like a hip Parisian; visit Sandro instead.

fers classes for all levels, seven days a week, 50 weeks a year. The newly expanded space also boasts a commercial art gallery just for quilts.

Best store for daydreaming about one day being a millionaire:

ABC Carpet and Home
888-881 Broadway, 212-473-3000, www.abc-home.com
 Spend a long afternoon pining for an \$895 ottoman or a \$675 set of bed linens at this behemoth, where every floor is a different wonderland. But it's not all for millionaires: We especially love the dainty vintage china (plates are \$28-\$100 each) and hand-crafted Indian frames (\$65).

Best place to buy a gift that will mean something to the recipient:

Metropolitan Museum of Art store
Various locations,

store.metmuseum.org
 Your bestie deserves more than a random bottle of wine. Hit the museum shop for unique treasures, everything from pendants to prints. The kids shop boasts educational toys for tykes of all ages and personalities, whether the recipient is a "mini maestro" or "early explorer."

Best place to meet like-minded outdoor enthusiasts:

REI Soho
303 Lafayette St., 212-680-1938, www.rei.com/stores/soho.html
 The sprawling wood-paneled space is a dream come true for nature-lovers. Find everything for your next excursion — from tents to mountain bikes to the best-tasting granola bars (that would be Stoats Porridge Oat Bars, by the way, by the cashiers' area). And while you're there, sign up for a group fitness excursion, like a day of skiing or stand-up paddle-boarding. Seasoned REI pros lead each adventure.



► REI is located inside the Puck Building at 303 Lafayette St.

Best shop for first-apartment housewares:

C. Wonder
Multiple locations, www.cwonder.com
 If you like your stuff personalized, C. Wonder is your Mecca. Preppy, pretty goods come at affordable prices at this trendy shop, which just opened a third location at the Time Warner Center. Pick up items for the home and, OK, maybe a new sweater for yourself.

Best affordable-trend-shopping store soundtrack:

Forever 21
Multiple locations, www.forever21.com
 Hit the trendy chain shop when you're in need of a new party playlist — the tracks played here are fresh, fun and fitting for any happy occasion. And if you want to pick up a faux-fur bolero while you're there, who are we to judge? It's cheap!

Best place to leave

smelling like a million bucks with hostess gifts in tow:

Sabon
Multiple locations, www.sabonnyc.com
 If the natural griminess of the city leaves your hands a bit sticky, dirty or just plain gummy, pop into Sabon to avail yourself of its myriad soap-scrub-lotion combos that'll leave your digits feeling squeaky clean. We dare you to leave without scooping up a patchouli-lavender-vanilla salt scrub for a friend.

Best place to recycle your first-ever iPod:

GameStop
Multiple locations, www.gamestop.com
 The video game store will take your old iPods, iPhones and other electronics, then pay you in exchange. You get to choose cash or store credit, but the cash amount will be lower than the credit. Still, we'll take any dough we can get off our 2006 Nano.

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THE WORD



Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** on today's gossip [@dorothyatmetro](#) dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Hidden no more: These stars 'came out' in 2012

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Steve Martin is still reeling, Seth Rogen likes the government's fashion sense, Bryan Singer needs to hire a copy-editor and Albert Brooks is keeping up with the news.

Steve Martin To Go
Still not feeling funny, nor is funny feeling appropriate.

Seth Rogen
After watching *Homeland* and *Zero Dark Thirty*, I'm really thinking the CIA should release a line of sexy lady's pantsuits.

Bryan Singer
I can't seem to type without misspelling something. :(

Albert Brooks
Gerard Depardieu gives up French citizenship and moves to Belgium. Taxes or waffles?



Rogen

A celebrity coming out of the closet is almost (almost) becoming a non-event; we're far from the days of **Ellen DeGeneres** and **Lance Bass** appearing on magazine covers. But it still makes news. Here are

some of the biggest announcements of 2012:

Who: Anderson Cooper, journalist

How: In an e-mail to blogger Andrew Sullivan
What was said: "The fact is, I'm gay," Cooper wrote. "Always have been, always will be." Cooper, who was the subject of rumors for years, addressed his silence. "I have given some the mistaken impression that I am trying to hide something —



something that makes me uncomfortable, ashamed or even afraid. This is distressing because it is simply not true."

Who: Wade Davis, a cornerback who spent four preseasons with three NFL teams

How: In an interview with *Outsports.com*

What was said: "You just want to be one of the guys, and you don't want to lose that sense of family," Davis said about not coming out sooner. "Your biggest fear is that you'll lose that camaraderie and family."

Who: Orlando Cruz, professional boxer

How: In a public announcement

What was said: "I have always been and always will

be a proud gay man."

Who: Matt Bomer, television star

How: Thanking his longtime partner, Simon Halls, and their kids upon accepting an award

What was said: "I'd really especially like to thank my beautiful family: Simon, Kit, Walker, Henry. Thank you for teaching me what unconditional love is."

Who: Lee "Uncle Poodle" Thompson, redneck

How: Appearing on "Here Comes Honey Boo Boo"

What was said: Thompson's homosexuality isn't a huge to-do on the show; he's out and proud. As Alana "Honey Boo Boo" Thompson says in the season finale, "ain't nothin' wrong with bein' a little gay."

Romeo Beckham models for Burberry

Maybe he's just not that good with a soccer ball?

It was announced this week that at only 10 years old, **David** and **Victoria Beckham**'s son, **Romeo Beckham**, is the "baby face" of Burberry's spring/summer '13 campaign.

"We had such fun shooting the campaign," Burberry's creative director **Christopher Bailey** says.

Perhaps Burberry really wanted his dad, David Beckham, but then decided they to go with someone who has more of a mature, male voice?



Talking points

Megan Fox on her 'vampire' baby

Megan Fox can certainly sympathize with **Kate Middleton**, having had a pretty rough and morning sickness-filled pregnancy herself. "It was so bad for me," Fox says during a visit to the "Tonight" show with **Jay Leno**. "I was convinced that I was, like, maybe birthing a vampire baby like the one in 'Twilight' — you know, what happened to Bella where she's in cold sweats all the time? And I felt like that was happening because I had no vitamins and I was just nauseous. Something not human

was happening."

Barrymore doesn't 'feel like a grown-up'

Drew Barrymore has done a lot of growing up, but that doesn't mean she feels like an adult. "The mistakes, the potholes, the journeys, the bad patterns — all of it is so

much clearer to me now, but I still don't totally feel like a grown-up," the 37-year-old new mom tells *Allure* magazine. "Maybe I never will."

Death Cab marriage is officially dead

Zoëy Deschanel's marriage to Death Cab for

Cutie frontman **Benjamin Gibbard** is officially over, with the former couple formalizing their divorce in a Los Angeles court last week, a little more than a year after separating, according to *E!* News. And the "New Girl" star appears to already be moving on, having been spotted recently walking



Deschanel poses with emo icon, and also Eeyore

hand-in-hand with new screenwriter boyfriend **Jamie Linden**.

Celebrity hacker gets 10 years in jail

Christopher Chaney, the man responsible for hacking the e-mail accounts of more than 50 celebrities and posting their intimate photos online, has been sentenced to 10 years in prison, according to *E!* News. Chaney was also ordered to pay restitution fees of \$66,179 by the judge, who admonished Chaney for his "callous disregard to his victims" during the hearing. His famous victims included **Scarlett Johansson**, **Miley Cyrus**, **Jessica Alba** and **Mila Kunis**.

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Now onstage: Thinking vs.

► Shows can stick with you by getting into your head or heart ► But which experience is more rewarding? ► We compare two current examples

Two of the most hotly anticipated plays to open in recent weeks — “Glengarry Glen Ross” and “Bare: The Musical” — have been garnering incredible attention for very different reasons. Here, we compare them in review to explore what it means to enjoy a “thinking play” or “feeling play,” respectively. There’s something to be said for sheer entertainment — where an audience leaves neither enlightened nor moved, yet still had a good time in their seats — but it falls somewhere in between these more memorable polarities. Let’s take a look:

‘Glengarry Glen Ross’

David Mamet is the embodiment of the thinking man’s playwright; if this show doesn’t prove it, theater-seekers can traipse up the block to corroborate it with his newest verbosity. “The Anarchist,” with Patti LuPone. Many fans are clamoring for seats to this sold-out revival of the 1984 hit because of its big-name roster, featuring Al Pacino; others are fans of the 1992 film (also starring Pacino). Although the play has some problems with formatting (e.g., the second act being nearly twice as long as the first),

it’s a tight drama that gets into the head of middle-aged career men (survivalist real estate agents) while ratcheting up the stakes until its abrupt irresolution. Its strength as a thinking play, however, is also its weakness: Viewers aren’t compelled to relate to these fairly despicable men who specifically avoid demonstrating how they feel. The characters seem to lack redeeming qualities or an explicit emotional arc, which may leave show-goers feeling sufficiently agitated and ultimately disconnected from the plot. www.glengarryglenrossbroadway.com



► Al Pacino and Bobby Cannavale star in “Glengarry Glen Ross.”

Critic’s picks:

Top 10 theater

pieces of 2012

Here are the shows that were hilarious, smart,

groundbreaking and/or just the best-executed:

1. “Venus In Fur”
2. “Once”
3. “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?”
4. “Death of a Salesman”
5. “Then She Fell”

6. “Triassic Park”
7. “Bare: The Musical”
8. “Peter and the Starcatcher”
9. “As You Like It”
10. “Helen and Edgar”

For reviews, visit www.metro.us/wellplayed.

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feeling plays

'Bare: The Musical'

This play has been making its way to NYC for 10 years since its first L.A. staging; it has the built-in fan base of a cult classic with the trajectory of an underdog tale. So many people flock-

ing to New World Stages to see it are already emotionally connected to the story — which follows the implicitly heartstring-plucking saga of teenagers' sexual awakening and unrequited love in a Catholic boarding school. But it's not the several weak sup-

porting roles, the overall amazing voices or even the literally heavy-handed choreography by Travis Wall that audiences are dissecting as the play veers tragically toward its climax. They won't dwell on how the dialogue is often choppy and the symbolism overwrought. That's because they're too busy trying to get their tissues out in time to dry their eyes and free up their hands for a rousing — if sniffly — ovation. But they will carry this show's prodding introspection low in their chests long past dinner-time before heading home to Google info about a new cast recording. Because they are — deeply and incontrovertibly — feeling "Bare."

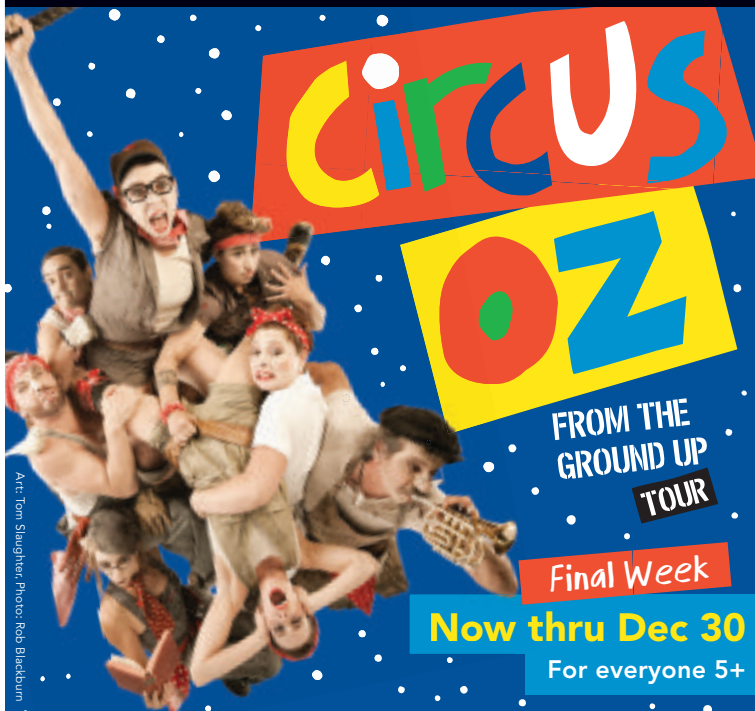
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► Taylor Trench, left, and Jason Hite star in "Bare."

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Gift guide

Gifts for co-workers

▶ You spend more hours with them than your friends
▶ Say thanks for all the times they hooked you up at the vending machine



▶ 1. For those pressing to-do lists. **Oasis Metallic Notebook**, \$7, Oasis.andotherbrands.com

▶ 2. Office environments beg for cookies. This delicious batch is made by four-time James Beard Award winner **Dorie Greenspan. Beurre & Sel Classic Jammers**, \$14, www.beurreandssel.com

▶ 3. Primping at your desk just got easier. **Tarte limited-edition curler and mascara set**, \$16, www.tartecosmetics.com

▶ 4. This full-bodied wine pairs perfectly with hearty winter meals. And yes, it's OK if you just bought it for the festive star label. **Clos de Los Siete**, \$18, stores nationwide

▶ 5. Valrhona's delicious new **Caramelia Milk Chocolate Pearls** — milk chocolate over a toasted puff cereal center — taste like high-end Whoppers. Perfect for the 4 p.m. sugar crash. \$8, www.valrhona-chocolate.com
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► While "Skyrim: Dragonborn" is an add-on to the original "Skyrim" game, it adds enough content and characters to create a brand new experience.

Digital stocking stuffers

► Save yourself some footwork by getting your favorite gamer these downloadable picks

Attention holiday shoppers, time is running out for you to snag that perfect gift for the gamer in your life. However, even if you are lazy and don't want to leave the couch, you can still get them something special. You see, video games can now be purchased using the mystical power of the Internet. Here are reviews of some games you can buy digitally.

'Skyrim: Dragonborn'
Xbox 360 (PS3 and PC coming next year)
Bethesda Softworks
\$20
00000

When "Skyrim" dropped last year, gamers were enthralled by the title's sheer amount of stuff to do. There was an entire continent to explore, complete with more quests and secrets than you could shake a stick at. It took many months, but the fan base finally

Sidescroller

LAWRENCE BONK

LAWRENCE.BONK@METRO.US

squeezed every inch of playtime out of the game, leaving them longing for more. Their wish has been granted.

"Dragonborn" is a downloadable add-on for

the game, and thus needs the original title to work. What you'll get for your \$20 is a whole new land, a whole new story and many new villains to bash in. The only downside are the dragons themselves. This DLC promised the ability to command one as a steed. While that is technically true, it is not nearly as exciting as it sounds.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

'Little Inferno'

Wii U
Tomorrow Corporation
\$15
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Most games are rehashes in some way or another but every now and then something truly original comes along. "Little Inferno" is one such game. It is, well, a fireplace simulator set inside of a world that can only be described as Ren and Stimpy meets

the apocalypse. You read that right. "Little Inferno" turns your Wii U gamepad into a miniature fireplace and tasks you to burn everything you can get your hands on. The trick is figuring out the right combination of items to incinerate, which allows you to slowly open up the game's story. The art style and dark humor make this a truly one-of-a-kind experience.

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Today in medicine

Update on the world's health

Study subjects: Worldwide data

Location of study: U.S.

Results: The latest Global Burden of Disease Study, the most comprehensive analysis to date of health around the world, finds that fewer deaths result from infectious diseases, maternal and child illness and malnutrition than 20 years ago. This results in fewer childhood deaths, but more young and middle-aged adult deaths from injury and chronic diseases like cancer and heart disease.

Significance: Over the past 40 years, men and women have lived longer by about 10 years, but injury and illness are prevalent in their lives.



► If you're cooking tonight, a star chef's recipe may not be the healthiest option.

Pot may not help with pain

Study subjects: Multiple sclerosis patients

Location of study: U.K.

Results: During trials of Sativex, a drug made from cannabis extract, there was no marked improvement of symptoms, per the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin.

Significance: The small improvement in symptoms in those patients using Sativex

was deemed insufficient to warrant its use in clinical practice.

Non-smokers win yet again

Study subjects: 5,300 patients with spinal disorder-related pain

Location of study: U.S.

Results: The University of Rochester's Department of Orthopaedics found that patients who had never smoked and those who had quit had signifi-

cantly less pain than current smokers and those who quit smoking during the study.

Significance: Previous research has shown a tie between smoking and low back pain, intervertebral (spine) disc disease and inferior patient outcomes after surgery.

Celeb chefs' recipes

Study subjects: Cross sectional study

Location of study: U.K.

Results: Recipes created by popular TV chefs contain significantly more calories, fat and saturated fat and less fiber per portion than prepared supermarket-ready meals, BMJ.com says.

Significance: Researchers suggested that cookbook recipes include nutritional information and that TV chefs' recipes be regulated.

● LINDA CLARKE

Your problems may be Varicose Veins!

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- Do you have skin discoloration on your legs or ankles (Blue/Brown)? ☐
- Is the skin on your legs red and dry? ☐
- Do you experience cramps in your legs, especially at nights? ☐
- Do you have non-healing wounds in your ankle areas? ☐
- Do you have spider veins on your legs and/or ankles? ☐
- Do the veins in your legs appear very dark blue or purple? ☐
- Is the pain in your legs worse after sitting or standing a long period of time? ☐
- Did you any of your parents or grandparents have varicose veins? ☐
- Do you have restless legs? ☐

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- My toes aren't straight - they are crooked, bent and hurt.
- I have painful calluses on the ball of my foot which keep building up.
- I have corns on my toes which get thicker no matter what shoe size I wear.
- The bottom of my heel hurts all day, but it's worse when I step out of bed in the morning.
- I have cramps in my legs which always happen when I walk the same distance.
- My ankles are swollen most of the time.
- My feet are always dry and scaly - sometimes they itch.
- My feet just hurt all over when I stand or walk a lot.
- I have numbness, burning, infection, persistent pain, skin rash, or open sores.

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Here's how to keep your New Year's resolutions

Whether you vow to stop smoking, exercise more or take on another challenge in 2013, making the decision is the first step and committing to it is the second. Then comes the difficult part: sticking with it.

Taking an internal inventory of your habits and why you have them is a good place to start, says psychologist Jeremy Dean, author of "Making Habits, Breaking Habits."

"A lot of habits are formed subconsciously," he says. "People light a cigarette or eat automatically. That's part of the reason it's hard to break a bad habit. Another problem is self-control issues on top of that."

Once you've done some soul-searching and are ready to change, Dean says it's less about deprivation and more about substitution. You need to also avoid situations that trigger the habit. For example, if

Go your own way

There are many common bad habits — smoking, overspending and nail-biting, to name a few — but success with quitting isn't universal:

► "It's important to do what's right for you,"

you want to cut back on caffeine, turn your 3 p.m. coffee break into a walk around the office.

"It's a mistake to suppress the habit," he says. "Replace it with good ones instead. Make a plan for a new habit and link it to a situation where you per-

says Dean. "We're told that exercising in the morning is best. Well, I'm not getting up early to exercise, so I exercise in the afternoon — it suits my schedule. Also, tweak your approach. If it doesn't work the first time, move it around a little until it feels right. Breaking habits can take experimentation until it works for you."

form the bad habit. Look for a point in the day when you will perform the new habit. Each time you repeat a behavior, the habit gets stronger. Over time, it will become automatic."

LINDA CLARKE
letters@metro.us

Health notes

Don't shoot your eye out

Be careful when popping the champagne at midnight this New Year's — corks can travel 50 miles per hour when launched! To avoid any eye injuries, follow these directions from the American Academy of Ophthalmology on how to properly open a bottle of champagne:



Chilling your bubbly in advance can help you stay safe.

- Chill sparkling wine and champagne to 45 degrees Fahrenheit or colder before opening. The cork of a warm bottle is more likely to pop unexpectedly.
- **Don't shake the bottle.** Shaking increases the speed at which the cork leaves the bottle, increasing your chances of severe eye injury.
- **Point the bottle at a 45-degree angle away from yourself and any bystanders** and hold down the cork with the palm of your hand while removing the bottle's wire hood.
- **Place a towel over the top of the bottle and grasp the cork.**
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Horoscope

♊ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** It could be the fateful time when some of your past efforts will be coming home to roost. You'll quickly discover all that hard work you've done will not have been in vain.

♊ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Although you might have to once again deal with a matter that has given you much trouble, this time experience and wisdom are on your side. You'll come out ahead.

♊ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Resurrecting an old enterprise that you were once quite enthusiastic about might be a good idea. You'll be glad you didn't scrap it, because you now possess the missing pieces.

♊ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.**

You're likely to do much better working with some trusted and competent intermediaries than handling a ticklish problem all on your own. It's smart to use all of your resources.

♊ Aries **March 21-April 19.** This might be the best day of the week to spend some time on one of your more meaningful objectives, so try to do so. You might not have the luxury for long.

♊ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Someone you like and whom you've known for a while is much fonder of you than you have reason to believe. He or she might supply evidence of this.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Don't place a lot of significance on some early, disconcerting developments, even if they appear to be pretty harsh. Luck will be on your side as the day

progresses.

♊ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** A close associate will make a tough decision that will have reverberations in your life. After the dust settles, you'll realize its benefits.

♊ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** This could be a very profitable time if you're both practical and prudent in involvements of a financial or material nature. You'll be smart when both buying and selling.

♊ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** If you're prepared to take a calculated risk, an endeavor in which you're presently involved could be substantially advanced. Be sure to think things out fully if you expect success.

♊ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Trying to quietly go about doing good deeds without drawing any attention to it is a laudable goal.

However, once word gets out, and it will, everyone will know of your kindness.

♊ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Something you've wanted to accomplish isn't a lock, but it's not as complex as you've led yourself to believe, either. You'll quickly find this out once you tackle it.

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Solution to yesterday's crossword



Across

1 "Eso —" (Paul Anka tune)
5 Muffler
10 Perseverance
14 Tel —
15 Kind of eclipse
16 Avatar of Vishnu
17 Ceremony
18 Brooklyn Dodger great
19 John, in Wales
20 Smudged
22 Kind of zoo
24 Embroider
25 Any miss
26 Held one's own
29 Good buddy
32 A moon of Jupiter
36 Wings, in botany
37 Gray
39 Old PC system
40 Really picky (hyph.)
43 Found a perch
44 Victoria's consort
45 Hat or umbrella —
46 Bandmate of Mick
48 Weather vane dir.
49 Bloodhound's clue
50 Mouse alert
52 Bewildered response
53 Pina — (rum drinks)
57 Computer screen
61 Psyche's suitor
62 Gimmicks
64 Wagner's earth goddess
65 Broad valley
66 Aim
67 Bird-feeder treat
68 Plumbing bends
69 NASA rocket
70 Prefix for "trillion"

Down

1 Cutting remark
2 Malicious
3 In — (as found)
4 Foreman
5 Fling
6 Woman on campus
7 Scarfed
8 Speak hoarsely
9 Bolts
10 Grimm maiden
11 Shankar the sitarist
12 Somali supermodel
13 Zingy taste
21 Checkers side
23 I thought — never leave!
26 Make watertight
27 Kukla's friend
28 Ms. LaBelle
29 Lets slip
30 Pink wines
31 Beyond the fringe
33 Delight in
34 Normandy city
35 Money in the bank
37 Grey Cup org.
38 Telegraph signal
41 Exclaimed over
42 Scratchiest
47 Fluffs, as hair

49 Grab some rays
51 Phi Beta —
52 Throws a party
53 Yield, as territory
54 Out loud
55 Lounge around

56 Vegas machine
57 Chatty starling
58 Authentic
59 River to the Baltic
60 — — -tat-tat
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Letters to the editor

The founders knew only flintlocks

I am just a dumb Iraq combat veteran. I don't claim to have any understanding of the most recent tragedy in Connecticut or the many others that have occurred in my lifetime. Perhaps evil just exists. Perhaps no amount of gun-control legislation or gun-control enforcement will prevent these horrific tragedies. I don't believe this. No sane human being can believe that the 40 signers of the U.S. Constitution, almost exclusively southern

"No sane human being can believe the 40 signers ... could have envisioned the caches of automatic ... weaponry."

farmers and northern aristocrats, could have envisioned the caches of automatic and semi-automatic weaponry currently in the hands of our citizenry.

LARRY D. FOWLER,
VIA E-MAIL

Bereaved should not be in papers

RE: "FUNERALS BEGIN FOR CONNECTICUT SLAIN CHILDREN" (METRO, DEC. 18) In today's journalistic landscape, there is a point where "newsworthiness" becomes gratuitous, even voyeuristic. Metro crossed that line yesterday when it featured a photo of a mother of one of the children slain in Newtown arriving for his funeral. Many news groups defend these choices by claiming that's what the public wants. As one of the leading news providers in many major cities, Metro now has an opportunity to use its influence to forge a new path and dare to treat its news subjects with the respect they deserve.

JANINE M. DOHERTY,
VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**



JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

► Jets name McElroy starter for Sunday ► Sanchez hits bench after ugly loss ► First-time starter testing out new arm strength

After a season of status quo, he may be the "Sanchise" no more.

The Jets announced yesterday, that for at least one week, Greg McElroy will be the starting quar-

terback when San Diego comes to MetLife Stadium this Sunday, relegating former first-round pick Mark Sanchez to the sideline.

Head coach Rex Ryan

Strong armed

McElroy, who spent the off-season rehabilitating from hand surgery, has emerged as a quarterback with a much stronger arm. He'll test it Sunday.

"The rehab had me use a variety of things to strengthen my hand, from webs to rubber bands, try-

ing to strength the smaller muscles in your hand," McElroy said last week. "You're able to speed up the motion of your arm because, technically, your arm can go as fast as you want it to go."

It could be key, as one of the reasons he dropped in the draft was weak arm strength. ● METRO/KD

said the decision was based on his "gut feeling."

"I think it's where we are right now. I just think it's best for our team for this game," Ryan said on his weekly conference call yesterday. "I made the decision that I'm going to make a change. I told Mark that last night. I never decided on the quarterback until today but I let Mark know."

Ryan, true to form, wouldn't throw Sanchez under the bus, as the two have a strong history.

"It's not necessarily about one guy, it is about the team. He had obviously a poor day but he

wasn't alone with that," Ryan said. "Obviously we can't turn the ball over five times and expect to win. Again, has he had better days than that? Absolutely."

KRISTIAN DYER
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Stoudemire on rehab program

Amar'e Stoudemire returned to some semblance of work yesterday, as he began his rehab stint with the Knicks' D-League affiliate, the Erie Bayhawks.

Stoudemire acknowledged his surgically repaired knee was "sore" following his session with Erie and noted he's "not sure" when he'll make his season debut.

"I don't know where everyone got that assumption that I'd be back Christmas Day," Stoudemire said. "I never made that statement at all. I'm not totally sure if I'll be back by then or not."

● TONY WILLIAMS

3

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Stewart muses

Cooking dinner? Skip the apps

"I don't like serving appetizers because I always have really good food and I don't want people to get stuffed on appetizers. I rarely have them, and if I do it's really something simple — but special — like homemade puff pastry cheese straws right out of the oven."

Entertain like the best

► Martha Stewart doesn't do appetizers, won't serve red wine and — surprise! — sends e-mail invitations ► She shares her tips for hosting the perfect party

Dream of hosting epic get-togethers that will spread like wildfire on Instagram and Pinterest, but have yet to organize something more involved than cheese and crackers? You, aspiring hostess, need a thought-out game plan, so we checked in with domestic powerhouse Martha Stewart (consider it an early Christmas present).

"I always have a Christmas open house," she explains. "This year I've decided to do brunch."

Here, she takes us through her personal party prep. Take notes, people!

Start with the right company

"The first thing I do is create my guest list. I have a basic list of my friends and then people who I've added to it throughout the year. I send out a save-the-date. Then I send out an e-mail invitation — but it's embedded in my e-mail so it opens immediately. You don't have to go clicking

here and clicking there. It's very important to me. I don't click on an envelope that opens up. Right click here and download pictures — I don't go for that stuff."

Plan your menu

"Next I start on the menu planning. What do I really want to cook? What do I really want to serve? After the menu planning comes the shopping list."

Dive into a theme

"Two weeks before the party make sure you have everything you need for decorating and [put it up]. We lost a lot of trees in Sandy, so I'm using a lot of fallen trees as decoration. All my big trays are slabs of wood cut from the trees that fell down. And I made beautiful coasters from 3-inch-diameter branches that are sliced very thinly. You have to think of a theme — is it woodland or what is it? I have a theme for all of my parties. I think it's fun."



► "You have to be creative, thoughtful and adventurous," says Stewart about being a good host.

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Dazzle at your dinner party

1 "Make sure you make time to be friendly to your guests and acknowledge everybody's presence. Try to matchmake a little with the people that you think should meet each other."

2 "I like to set the table for a plated and served dinner unless I'm having a very large crowd. When creating a seating chart for served dinners, I always break up couples and seat new people next to one another. I also always put myself in the least-comfortable spot. For a crowd larger than what my tables will hold seated, I will serve a buffet dinner."



► Stewart is using fallen trees this year to make trays and coasters for her holiday party.

3 "Having cocktails pre-made ensures you won't spend the whole party fixing drinks and you can instead devote

your attention to your guests."



TINA CHADHA
tina.chadha@metro.us

Create signature drinks

"Make a really good drink from fresh juices, the best ingredients, and serve it in beautiful glass-

es. I'll also serve white wine. I don't serve red wine in my house because I don't want people to spill it — unless it's a seated dinner. We're going to have

homemade bloody marys with homemade tomato juice, egg nog and hot mulled white wine. You have to be a little creative, thoughtful and adventurous."



Martha Stewart Collection acrylic wine glasses, \$20 for four, Macys.com



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Gift guide

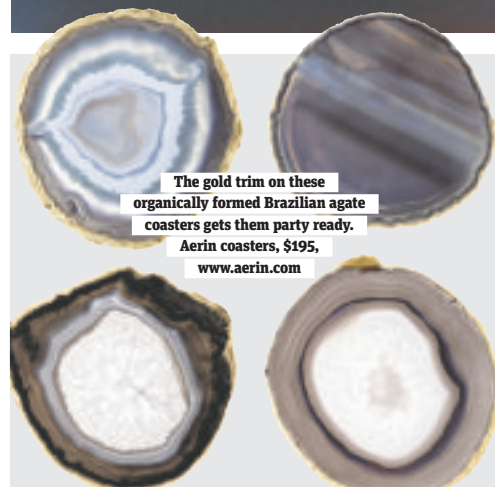
Gilded age

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TINA CHADHA
tina.chadha@metro.us



Francois Payard's new luxury dark chocolate and black truffle macarons are dusted with sparkly gold. \$60 per 12-piece box, www.payard.com



The gold trim on these organically formed Brazilian agate coasters gets them party ready. Aerin coasters, \$195, www.aerin.com



They'll be the most glam olives his guests will ever eat. Brass Hors d'Oeuvre picks, \$38, www.shopterrain.com



These chic vases don't really need flowers to live on your table. Diane von Furstenberg Tresor vase, \$90, www.bloomingdales.com



Your makeup drawer just got the royal treatment. Clarins Odyssey Eye Palette, \$40, www.bloomingdales.com

Serve them potato chips — who cares, your table is blingy. Chilwich Pressed Gilt place mats, \$10 each, www.chilwich.com



Caldrea's new Crimson Pear Ginger Candle Trio will make her cubicle look like a million bucks. \$21, www.caldrea.com

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Real estate news

Builder confidence rises for eighth straight month

Builders are increasingly bullish about the newly built single-family home market, according to the latest National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index. The index of builder confidence rose for the eighth consecutive month, and its current level of 47 is the highest it's been since April 2006. The trend is indicative of the gradual recovery of the nationwide housing market, said David Crowe, NAHB's chief economist, "that we expect to continue in 2013." Scores above 50 represent positive builder sentiments on the scale, which spans 1-100. Builders were buoyed by an increase in the number of serious home buyers, combined with a decreasing vacancy and foreclosure rate, said NAHB Chairman Barry Rutenberg. **HITEN SAMTANI**

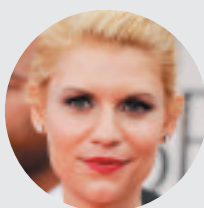
OKCupid co-founder pays \$1.6 million for Williamsburg walkup

Was it love at first sight? Christian Rudder, the co-founder of popular online dating website OKCupid, has paid over ask for a three-family home in Williamsburg, according to property records filed yesterday. The property was last listed for \$1.59 million, but Rudder and his wife, Reshma Patel, plunked down \$1.6 million, records show.

The 2,700-square-foot



► OKCupid co-founder Christian Rudder just bought this Williamsburg pad.



Claire Danes sells SoHo home for \$5.85M

Actress Claire Danes, of "My So-Called Life" and "Homeland" fame, sold her SoHo loft for \$5.85 million, the New York Post reported. The asking price for the 3,861-square-foot Wooster Street condominium was \$5.99 million.

Danes and her husband, actor Hugh Dancy, listed the home in June with Town Residential. The home, located at 42 Wooster St., has three bedrooms and three bathrooms underneath 11-foot ceilings. Other amenities include a wood-burning fireplace and a rotating breakfast bar. **ZACHARY KUSSIN**

building, located at 184 North Ninth St. near Bedford Avenue, was built in 1910 and is divided into three railroad-style units. Danielle Villalba, a broker with Nassau County-based boutique firm Nest Realty Consultants, had the exclusive listing.

Rudder is the general manager of the website, which he co-founded in 2004. OKCupid was acquired in 2011 by the operators of competitor Match.com for \$50 million. Rudder and Patel, a publicist, currently live in a 1,592-square-foot condominium at 286 Union Ave. in Williamsburg, which they bought for \$800,000 in 2006, records show. It is unclear whether the couple plans to move into the property or use it for investment purposes. Neither Rudder nor Villalba could be reached for comment. **HITEN SAMTANI**

TheRealDeal.com is a daily blog and monthly magazine covering real estate in the New York metro area.

THE REAL DEAL

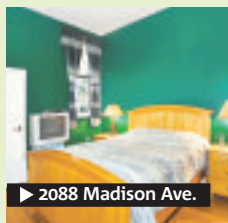
Market watch

CHEAPEST: \$140K 2088 Madison Ave.

The cheapest apartment listed this week is a co-op at 2088 Madison Ave. This one-bedroom with maintenance fees of only \$390 a month is listed by Bond New York for \$140K, with the owner being subject to HDIC income restrictions.

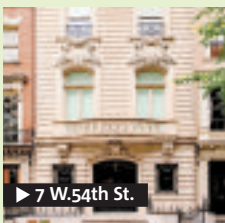
PRICIEST: \$49.9M 7 W. 54th St.

The most-expensive property to hit the market this week is a five-story



► 2088 Madison Ave.

mansion at 7 W. 54th St. Listed by Corcoran for \$49.9M, this 16,600-square-foot property had a glass penthouse added to it in 2006 and currently serves as the headquarters for a hedgefund.



► 7 W. 54th St.

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